REMARKS

In the Advisory Action mailed on January 16, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the proposed Amendment After Final, filed December 4, 2003, would overcome: the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 63, 64, 67, and 68, the objection to claims 63-69, the Section 112, 1st paragraph rejection of claims 63-69, and the Section 112, 2nd paragraph rejection of claims 63-69. The Examiner, however, suggested further clarifications in the preamble of the independent claims and maintained the objection to the drawings. The Examiner denied entry of the Amendment After Final filed on December 4, 2003.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for taking time to speak with Applicant's representative during the interview on March 2, 2004. This response is consistent with the issues discussed and agreements reached during the interview.

In this Reply, Applicant has re-submitted all of the amendments that were included in the Amendment After Final filed on December 4, 2003. Thus, as the Examiner has indicated in the Advisory Action, entry of these amendments shall overcome the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 63, 64, 67, and 68, the objection to claims 63-69, the Section 112, 1st paragraph rejection of claims 63-69, and the Section 112, 2nd paragraph rejection of claims 63-69, as originally set forth in the final Office Action dated June 4, 2003.

In view of the withdrawal of the objection and rejections, only two issues remain in the application: (1) the suggested modification to the preamble, and (2) the objection to the drawings.

By this Reply, Applicant has amended the preamble of claims 63, 65, and 66 to recite "the load sensing and braking system comprising," as suggested by the Examiner.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Applicants respectfully maintain that the objection to the drawings is improper and should be withdrawn. As demonstrated by the remarks included in the Advisory Action, the Examiner is concerned that the embodiment shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings does not include the claimed valve member, air bags, and control means. Applicant respectfully submits that every claim element is shown in one or more of the drawings, as required. Applicant also submits that the embodiment of Fig. 5 does, in fact, include the claimed valve member, air bags, and control means.

As discussed during the interview, the specification and the drawings clearly indicate that the embodiment of Fig. 5 includes a valve member. For example, in the discussion of Fig. 5, the specification indicates that in Fig. 5, "components corresponding to the components in Figure 1 have been assigned the same reference numerals." (Spec., p. 17, lines 4-6.) Thus, it is clear that the valve 13 of Fig. 5 corresponds to the like-numbered valve 13 shown in Fig. 1. The specification further states that the valve 13 of Fig. 1 (which corresponds to the valve 13 of Fig. 5) "is shown schematically in Figures 2A and 2B." (Spec., p. 11, lines 9-10.) Thus, the specification supports a conclusion that the valve 13 of Fig. 5 is also shown schematically in Figs. 2A and 2B. Fig. 2A shows a throttling element 24 (e.g., a "valve member") that is movable between a minimum and a maximum throttling position to control the flow of brake fluid to a brake actuator. (Spec., p. 11, lines 14-18.) In view of this disclosure, the

embodiment of Fig. 5 also includes the claimed valve member in the form of throttling element 24.

The embodiment of Fig. 5 also includes the claimed air bags. As the Examiner noted in the Advisory Action, the embodiment of Fig. 5 includes "actuators" 26 and 27. The Examiner is concerned that these "actuators" do not constitute the claimed air bags. As discussed during the interview, the "actuators" may include air bags. As noted in the specification, "[t]wo actuators 26 and 27 exert forces on the swinging arm 25. Actuator 26 is a fluid actuator, in this case an air bag similar to the air bags 4 but on a reduced scale." (Spec., p. 11, lines 19-21.) Thus, the actuators 26 and 27 of Fig. 5 may include air bags.

Finally, the embodiment of Fig. 5 includes the claimed control means. With respect to this claim element, the Examiner has expressed concern that the embodiment of Fig. 5 does not include a control means because, as maintained in the Advisory Action, there is no element in Fig. 5 "operable to select one of the plurality of predetermined reference fluid pressures." Again, as discussed during the interview, the embodiment of Fig. 5 includes a control means that enables selection from among a plurality of predetermined reference pressures. For example, if the sensed pressure in the suspension system is below a predetermined threshold, then the pressure switch 55 provides a first output signal. If the sensed pressure is above the predetermined threshold, then the pressure switch 55 provides a second output signal. The pressure regulator 29 of Fig. 5 is configured to provide first and second reference pressures in response to the first and second output signals. (Spec., p. 17, line 20 to p. 18, line 8.) Thus, the embodiment of Fig. 5 includes a control means for selecting from among a

plurality of predetermined reference pressures (i.e., the first and second reference pressures). The specification further explains that the control arrangement may be configured with even more than two thresholds to select from among any number of predetermined reference pressures. (Spec., p. 18, lines 17-23.)

For at least the reason that the embodiment of Fig. 5 includes each of the claim elements, the objection to the drawings is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 4, 2004

By: _____
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Attachments: **Six sheets of drawings including one replacement sheet (i.e., Sheet 1 of 6), which includes Fig. 1 and newly added Fig. 6.**